



Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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MEMORANDUM

Date	Action Requested
October 20, 2006	None, For Information Only
To	Deadline
Members of the Judicial Council	N/A
From	Contact
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Subject	
Report from the Administrative Director of the Courts	

In addition to the regular communications that are shared with you, including the weekly e-edition of *Court News Update*, the following information highlights some of the many activities that have taken place since the last Judicial Council meeting to further the council's goals and agenda for the judicial branch.

SB 56 Implementation and Follow Up

- AOC executives met with the Governor's Judicial Appointments Secretary to review processes for data reporting and to address logistics for the appointment of the new judges. The 50 new judgeships will be allocated pursuant to the Judicial Council allocation report approved in 2004.
- A new judicial needs analysis and ranking is under way to update data for subsequent proposed legislation for presentation to the council at its December meeting. Issues being addressed include:
 - Subordinate Judicial Officer (SJO) creation/ratification policy;
 - Updating SJO conversion analysis;
 - Funding schedule for new judges;
 - Education planning for new judges;
 - Facilities planning;

- Development of performance measures;
- Reporting on demographics; and
- Coordination with Governor on appointment of new positions.

Diversity on the Bench

- AOC and State Bar executives met to discuss proposed revisions to the superior court judicial application process and the methodology data collection on judicial appointments.
- Court, bar, and sister branch representatives will attend a meeting at the end of this month to discuss how the judicial branch may be able to assist the Governor by increasing the diversity (gender, ethnic, cultural, and professional diversity) of the pool of applicants for judicial appointments and assisting applicants through the process. This meeting follows up on the June Summit on Diversity in the Judicial Branch.

Judicial Salaries

- Meetings were held with various groups, including the executive director of the Department of Personnel Administration and representatives from the Department of Finance, to review judicial salaries and the implications of Government Code § 68203.

Connecting with Constituencies

- Stemming from the council's short-term strategy to revive community-focused court planning, which in turn was a response to the results of the 2005 *Trust and Confidence in the California Courts* survey, the AOC launched the *Connecting with Constituencies* program to assist trial courts in engaging their constituency groups in meaningful dialogue on court improvements and strategic planning. (Trial courts' strategic plans are due to the council by April 2007.)
- Three training workshops were conducted to provide court leaders with practical advice and strategies to engage their communities. Eighty-three judicial officers and court staff from 27 courts attended. Resources include an instructional guide and Trial Court Improvement Fund mini-grants. The AOC also will help courts in reporting back to constituencies by developing a publication template that each court can use to convey its major accomplishments, objectives, and services.
- Future plans for the program include assisting the courts with their operational plans, which must be developed by April 2008.

Justice System Partners Outreach

- The San Francisco Superior Court's Jury Assembly Room was the venue for the second of three outreach programs for the Chief Justice and local court leaders to meet with justice system partners on the future of California's justice system. Twenty-one justice system organizations were represented at the meeting including the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, California Women Lawyers, Public Interest Clearinghouse, Legal Aid Association of California, Volunteer Legal Services Programs, the San Francisco Public Defender, and several Bay Area law schools.

Educational Outreach

- The California Supreme Court held its sixth annual student outreach program in the Santa Barbara Superior Court. More than 750 students attended the special session where justices heard oral arguments in eight civil and criminal cases. With the support of the AOC, the first three cases were broadcast live by California Channel, a public affairs network

Legislative Outreach

- A series of meetings is under way with Senate and Assembly candidates to brief them on the needs of the judiciary.

Inaugural Assigned Judges Conference

- More than 200 of 320 assigned judges attended the inaugural Assigned Judges Conference. Plenary sessions were conducted on restraining orders, criminal, civil, and juvenile dependency and delinquency law, and best practices and relationships with the trial courts. (The juvenile update was conducted by AOC Judge-in-Residence Len Edwards.)
- Participants received an overview of the use of Lexis-Nexis, (access to the system is provided free of charge to all judges in the program), and computer training on civil and criminal jury instructions.
- Approximately half of the judges took the opportunity to attend qualifying ethics sessions.
- The Chief Justice addressed the participants and presented certificates of appreciation to 7 judges who have served in the program for 20 or more years and another 18 judges who have served for 15 years.

Statewide Administrative Infrastructure Services Funding Committee

- This new committee of 6 trial court and 5 AOC representatives was established to review staff recommendations on supplemental funding requests from courts for costs related to statewide technology projects. During this reporting period, the committee considered 16 supplemental funding requests and 5 appealed decisions. Recommendations will be submitted to the Administrative Director of the Courts for final decision. Requesting courts will be notified of decisions and approved supplemental funding will be distributed as part of the monthly allocation process.

Regional Meetings of Presiding Judges (PJs) and Court Executive Officers (CEOs)

- PJs and CEOs convened for their quarterly regional meetings at the AOC Southern, Northern/Central, and Bay Area/Northern Coastal Regional Offices. Issues for Southern courts included ethical issues regarding judicial elections and sharing of court accomplishments and frustrations; issues for the Northern/Central courts included the research attorney pilot Program, audits, and a demonstration of the California Case Management System; issues for the Bay Area/Northern Coastal courts included self-help centers and programs, and interim facility funding.
- The Chief Justice joined court leaders from both the Southern and Bay Area/Northern Coastal regions at their meetings to hear local perspectives and answer questions.

Court Executives Advisory Committee

- The Court Executives Advisory Committee met on a broad range of issues: New Money for Self-Help Centers, CARS Trust Accounting Module, Court Staff Retirement Costs and Planning, Facilities Maintenance and Modification, Need for Updated Court Compensation Survey, Clarification on Need for Court to Maintain a 30-Day Operating/Payroll Reserve, Impact of Pending Legislation on Probate Conservatorships on Courts, and Study of Impact of Merger and Consolidation of Employee Organizations on Courts.

State Bar and California Judges Association Annual Meetings

- The Chief Justice participated in multiple events at the State Bar and CJA annual meetings. He delivered the 11th annual State of the Judiciary Address to the bar membership, noting the importance of bench-bar collaboration in the achievements of the past year. The Chief also participated in a question and answer session with CJA participants.

2006 New Laws Workshops

- Three, one-day, 2006 New Laws Workshops were sponsored jointly by the AOC, the California Court Association, and the Coalition of Trial Court Clerk Associations Legislation Committee. Held in each of the three AOC regions, the workshops were designed to facilitate discussion and development of court procedures necessary to implement new laws enacted in 2006 that affect the trial courts and were open to all trial court managers, supervisors, and court staff responsible for developing and implementing new procedures. Subject areas addressed included:
 - Changes in probate issues surrounding conservatorship proceedings and requirements;
 - New family law requirements;
 - Changes in criminal and traffic laws; and
 - Ongoing implementation of the Uniform Civil Fee laws of 2005.

Trial Court Reporting on Use of Temporary Judges

- The new rules on court-appointed temporary judges, effective on July 1, 2006, require courts to report on a quarterly basis their use of attorneys as temporary judges. To assist the courts, the AOC developed a simple template to report the information on-line. This information will be useful in showing the need for new judicial positions and for improving services to courts that use temporary judges.

FAQs on Elections of Superior Court Judges

- In response to a request for general guidance on common election-related questions, the AOC's Office of the General Counsel forwarded an informational memo to presiding judges for dissemination to all judges in their courts. (The memo also is posted on the Serranus Web site.) The question-and-answer format expands on a memorandum distributed by the AOC in 2003, regarding use of public resources in election activities. It includes information for judges on such topics as campaigning on their own behalf, soliciting or accepting campaign contributions, receiving endorsements, and limits on what judges can say during election campaigns.

Science and Law Steering Committee

- As a result of the Judicial Council's charge to the steering committee to conduct roundtables around the state of judges, attorneys, scientists, and others to discuss and address how to best prepare the courts for the continuing and increasing complexity of cases involving science and technology, three regional meetings were convened for these participant stakeholders to examine coming scientific innovations and existing court practices. Recommendations were made regarding potential changes to rules, processes, and procedures in anticipation of a final report to the Judicial Council.

Child Support Program 10th Anniversary

- The annual AB 1058 Child Support Program Training Conference included a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the courts' child support program. The training agenda was aimed at providing specialized training to all categories of court employees who work in the child support program. The conference was attended by over 480 participants including child support commissioners, family law facilitators, court administration and accounting staff, court clerks, program partners from the State Department of Child Support Services and local child support agencies, and former members of the Governor's Child Support Task Force that recommended creation of the program.

Blue Ribbon Commission on Foster Care

- The 41-member commission, chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Carlos Moreno, agreed upon a set of principles and values, as well as work plans for the commission and its subcommittees, to guide its work through completion in Spring 2008. The commission also toured the San Francisco Unified Family Court and spoke with the court's presiding judge, and former Judicial Council member Donna Hitchens and her staff.

Family Dispute Resolution

- Representatives from 42 courts participated in semi-annual compliance training of trial court family dispute resolution directors, managers, and supervisors. Attendees received updates on the family and juvenile law legislative agenda and the upcoming 2007 snapshot study of family mediations throughout the state. Other initiatives addressed included colleague mentoring and leadership development, mediation internship programs, and comparative regional court visits to enhance service to the public and effective practices for family court services and mediation programs

US Appointment for Chief Justice George

- United State Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts has appointed Chief Justice George to the Rules and Procedures Committee that advises the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Other Notable Activities During the Months of September and October

- Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee
- New Appellate Justices Orientation
- New Judge Orientation

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- Psychotropic Medication Form Working Group
- Great Minds Satellite Broadcast: Judicial Security
- Manager/Supervisor Regional Training Series: Supervision and the Law
- Court Staff Regional Training: Civil Courtroom Procedures
- CARS User Group Meetings

Attachment

- Current Judicial Vacancy Report

TC/em

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
JUDICIAL VACANCY REPORT (8011)**

Number of Judgeships Authorized, Filled and Vacant as of October 1, 2006

TYPE OF COURT	NUMBER OF COURTS	NUMBER OF JUDGESHIPS				
		Authorized	Filled	Vacant	<i>Filled(Last Month)</i>	<i>Vacant(Last Month)</i>
Supreme Court	1	7	7	0	7	0
Courts of Appeal	6	105	104	1	104	1
Superior Courts	58	1498	1480	18	1478	20
All Courts	65	1610	1591	19	1589	21

JUDICIAL VACANCIES: APPELLATE COURTS

Appellate District	Vacancies	Reason for Vacancy	Justice to be Replaced	Last Day In Office
First Appellate District, Division Five	1	Retirement	Hon. Lawrence T. Stevens	02/28/06
TOTAL VACANCIES	1			

JUDICIAL VACANCIES: SUPERIOR COURTS

County	Vacancies	Reason for Vacancy	Judge to be Replaced	Last Day In Office
Alameda	1	Elevated	Hon. James A. Richman	02/22/06
Butte	1	Retirement	Hon. William R. Patrick	08/18/06
Los Angeles	4	Elevated	Hon. Steven C. Suzukawa	06/08/06
Los Angeles		Retirement	Hon. Charles G. Rubin	04/30/06
Los Angeles		Retirement	Hon. Paula Adele Mabrey	04/28/06
Los Angeles		Retirement	Hon. Michael E. Knight	02/20/06
Orange	1	Retirement	Hon. Robert H. Gallivan	08/01/06
Riverside	1	Retirement	Hon. H. Dennis Myers	05/09/06
San Bernardino	2	Deceased	Hon. Roberta McPeters	05/18/06
San Bernardino		Retirement	Hon. Douglas Alan Fettel	03/17/06
San Diego	2	Retirement	Hon. Laura P. Hammes	06/11/06

(Vacancy Removed from Report when Replacement Appointed or Elected)

San Diego		Retirement	Hon. Joe O. Littlejohn	04/06/06
Santa Clara	2	Retirement	Hon. Nazario (Tito) Gonzales	07/25/06
Santa Clara		Retirement	Hon. Leonard P. Edwards	05/31/06
Santa Cruz	1	Retirement	Hon. Thomas E. Kelly	03/25/06
Sonoma	1	Retirement	Hon. Raymond J. Giordano	05/01/06
Stanislaus	2	Retirement	Hon. Michael Richard Cummins	08/29/06
Stanislaus		Retirement	Hon. John E. Griffin, Jr.	08/13/06
TOTAL VACANCIES	18			